

## Chapter 8

# A Multi-Perspective Approach to “Spiritual India”

**Sribas Goswami**

*Serampore College, University of Calcutta, India*

### **ABSTRACT**

*The fundamental idea of all Indian philosophy is one common to the highest human thinking everywhere. The supreme truth of all that is a being or an existence beyond the mental and physical appearances we contact here. Beyond mind, life, and body there is a spirit and self containing all that is finite and infinite, surpassing all that is relative, a supreme absolute originating and supporting all that is transient, a one eternal. A one transcendent, universal, original, and sempiternal divinity or divine essence, consciousness, force, and bliss is the fount and continent and inhabitant of things. Soul, nature, life are only a manifestation or partial phenomenon of this self-aware eternity and this conscious eternal. But this truth of being was not seized by the Indian mind only as a philosophical speculation, a theological dogma, an abstraction contemplated by the intelligence. This chapter indicates the central characteristics of Indian culture as it has grown from its beginning to its present positions.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

India is known for its rich spiritual heritage and has unique ways of understanding, experiencing, and expressing spirituality. The philosophical and cultural frames of reference, with which communities in India make sense of life, death and dying, determine the characteristics of Indian spirituality at the end of life. In international literature, spirituality is often characterized as the “essence of the human person”

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-4595-9.ch008

### ***A Multi-Perspective Approach to “Spiritual India”***

and the “meaning and purpose of life. These are philosophical concepts that shape our perceptions of our identity and our experience of living in human communities in particular contexts. India, the holy land of diverse culture linked to deep-rooted spirituality through the deific power of many divine souls, saints, and yogis. Through their true knowledge, the glorified souls had revealed many presiding truths. People across the world and from distinct religious backgrounds believe that India has the mystical power to heal the fatigued soul. The incredible hidden treasure of mind has been unfurled by the sages, traveled to this spiritual land over centuries.

The country with a glorious past, rich culture, and different religious centers have always attracted people to seek divinity. Religious gurus like Buddha, Mahavira, and many others had spread the message of service to all living creatures and originated the major religions like Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism which spread their wings across the border of this pious land of India. The land has lots to offer to the thirsty minds and souls wandering for the devout association. India, the land of God has always answers for any questions related to the hidden truth of life, power of mind and mysticism. Mind rejuvenating spiritual practices like yoga and interrelated meditation for the higher consciousness of mind and active body are originated in the sacred land of India. Religious schools and centers like a temple, shrines, mosques, gurudwara, churches give a sense of spiritual fervor. The land is the domicile of a large number of gods, goddesses, deluge festivals and celebrations peculiar rituals and rites. All have their own cultural and divine values. We are proud Indians as our motherland is the supreme and unique destination of holistic and spiritual experience. Among all the values that exist in Indian culture, the spiritual-based values have contributed to cultivating philosophical thoughts. Indian scriptures such as Upanishads, Purans, etc. have a great contribution to spiritualism. Evolved in Vedic age the spirit of spiritualism further nurtured and conclude the height of human wisdom. (Avinasha, 1974).

So the solution of the present psychological problem of the world is that the field of inquiry of the philosophy of life should be the whole being and the absolute Truth. Scientific research, which is based on the relative knowledge of the relative phenomena of nature, should be coupled with the quest of the absolute Being. Many Indian Philosophers and social scientists have offered a unique thesis, based on the synthesis of the creative faculty of the Indian philosophy and the relative knowledge of the West, to fulfill this universal need.

## **THE PHILOSOPHY OF INDIAN CULTURE: AN ANALYSIS**

India, its people, its infrastructure, and indeed its very soil, encourage and breed Spiritualism, allowing religions to thrive, flourish and prosper. India boasts the

15 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: [www.igi-global.com/chapter/a-multi-perspective-approach-to-spiritual-india/270034](http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/a-multi-perspective-approach-to-spiritual-india/270034)

## Related Content

---

Exploring Bilingual Dynamics: Students' Perspectives in Islamic Studies Classrooms Across English and Arabic Medium International Schools  
Syeda Rabia Tahir (2024). *International Journal of Contemporary Islamic Studies* (pp. 1-12).  
[www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654](http://www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654)

Exploring Bilingual Dynamics: Students' Perspectives in Islamic Studies Classrooms Across English and Arabic Medium International Schools  
Syeda Rabia Tahir (2024). *International Journal of Contemporary Islamic Studies* (pp. 1-12).  
[www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654](http://www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654)

Current Pilgrimage Routes: Considering Historical Records to Rethink Them  
Vítor João Pereira Domingues Martinho, João Augusto Guerra da Rocha Nunes, Maria Lúcia de Jesus Pato, Liliana Andrade de Matos Castilho, Carlos Miguel Pipa, Luís Maia Rodrigues and Beatriz Topete Lopes Almeida (2023). *Experiences, Advantages, and Economic Dimensions of Pilgrimage Routes* (pp. 262-285).  
[www.irma-international.org/chapter/current-pilgrimage-routes/333820](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/current-pilgrimage-routes/333820)

Exploring Bilingual Dynamics: Students' Perspectives in Islamic Studies Classrooms Across English and Arabic Medium International Schools  
Syeda Rabia Tahir (2024). *International Journal of Contemporary Islamic Studies* (pp. 1-12).  
[www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654](http://www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654)

Exploring Bilingual Dynamics: Students' Perspectives in Islamic Studies Classrooms Across English and Arabic Medium International Schools  
Syeda Rabia Tahir (2024). *International Journal of Contemporary Islamic Studies* (pp. 1-12).  
[www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654](http://www.irma-international.org/article/exploring-bilingual-dynamics/360654)